

County Road Deficit Fixed At \$7½ Billion by Chace

Unless new sources of revenue are found, it will require 78 years to correct all road deficiencies in Los Angeles County.

This was disclosed Tuesday by Supervisor Burton W. Chace, chairman of the Board of Supervisors' Road Committee, who also reported that by 1970 it will require some 7½ billion dollars to upgrade all City and County roads.

"Because of the tremendous influx of people and cars into Southern California, and particularly Los Angeles County, the demands on both County and City roads are becoming greater and greater," Chace said. "And, unless we are fortunate enough to come across new sources of revenue, the task of correcting all road deficiencies in the near future seems an impossibility."

CHACE, HOWEVER, pointed out that he is against imposing any more taxes "because we just about have reached the saturation point on it. Some windfall, like possessory interest legislation, would no doubt be of some help. But we certainly should not expect people to pay any more taxes than they are already paying."

The 7½ billion dollars required to correct road deficiencies represents approximately 40 per cent of the total County and City street needs in the entire state, Chace added.

"IT IS ALSO interesting to note that the 7½ billion broken down to an individual basis would mean a cost of \$10,200 per family and this, needless to say, is quite a sizeable amount," he said.

In the meantime, Chace said, Road Commissioner N. H. Templin has assured him that the County Road Department will continue to carry out the Board policy of using available funds for the benefit of the largest number of highway users.

"THE MAJOR highways will, of course, continue to be maintained in an efficient manner but it is easy to see why every wish of residents for repair of

minor streets cannot be met," he said.

Chace also revealed that during the three-month period from July 1 to Sept. 30 the County Road Department designed highway construction projects totaling \$4,835,000. In addition, there are under construction 88 projects with a total contract value of \$5,151,000.

ALSO, THE ROAD Department has completed 56 design projects during the first quarter of the fiscal year. Chace gave the following examples: Los Angeles Hwy over Southern Pacific Railroad, \$172,000; Arrow Hwy., Glendora Ave. to Amelia Ave., \$438,000; Compton Blvd., Prairie Ave. to Hawthorne Blvd., \$95,000; Crescent

Heights Blvd., Norton Ave. to Willoughby Ave., \$53,000; Sepulveda Blvd., Figueroa St. to Main St., \$204,000.

In addition, contracts were awarded for a total of 32 projects with a total contract value of \$1,569,547. Included in these 32 awarded projects are:

AVIATION BLVD., El Segundo Blvd. to Manhattan Beach Blvd., \$268,400; Imperial Hwy., bridge over North Fork of Coyote Creek, \$207,500; Inglewood Ave., Rosecrans to 152nd St., \$107,200; Placerita Canyon Road, bridge over Placerita Creek, \$31,600; Rogers St., Miller Ave. to Eastern Ave., \$27,000.

"These are major projects but the Road Department continuously goes on with routine improvements for the installation of a needed boulevard stop sign to the resurfacing of worn pavement," Chace said.

He also pointed out that the Road Department works on projects for incorporated cities under service contracts as popularized by the City of Lakewood in 1954. Since then 23 other cities have requested this type of contract.

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"Money doesn't make a fool out of a man nearly as often as a girl makes money out of a fool." — Anna Herbert.

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